[1st March 1930

A.—(a) No.

(b) & (c) Yes; on the general principle that pay is fixed with reference to the duties and responsibilities appertaining to a particular post or class of posts and not with reference to the qualifications of individual officers holding the posts.

(d) No.

Panchayat Forests

Constitution and working of forest panchayats.

* 1544 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to G.O. No. 1275, Revenue, dated 28th June 1929—

(a) under what statutory authority forest panchayats in the Presidency were constituted and rules were made for their administration;

(b) whether Government have in view any legislation to give them legal basis; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to place the Forest Panchayat Rules on the Council table?

A.—(a) The constitution and administration of forest panchayats are governed by the executive orders of the Government.

(b) No.

(c) The rules regulating forest panchayats are at present scattered over a number of Board's Proceedings and Government Orders. With a view to consolidating these instructions the Board of Revenue has submitted to Government a draft standing order which is intended to embody all the instructions that are to be observed on the subject in future. This draft is being considered by the committee appointed in G.O. Press No. 95, Revenue, dated 20th January 1930, which has been placed at the disposal of the Press. The rules as finally approved by the Government will be published.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"With reference to the answer given in clause (a), may I enquire on what statutory basis the forest panchayats are placed?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"They are not placed on any statutory basis."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Then do they have any statutory force?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"That is asking for opinion."

Criminal Tribes Act

Inspection of registered members of criminal tribes by the Police.

* 1545 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: With reference to the answers arising out of supplementary questions on the answer to question No. 1130, dated 21st January 1930, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have ascertained if the registered members of criminal tribes living in the villages mentioned in the answers are required to go and report themselves to the officer in charge of police stations in the neighbouring villages on a night every week and, if so, whether they have ordered the practice to be put an end to?